

**TITLE OF INVENTION: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ICE FISHING
UTILIZING THE JIG FISHING SYSTEM™**

APPLICATION #: 10/640,982

FILING DATE: August 14, 2003

APPLICANT: Senckowski, John F.

EXAMINER: Trinh T. Nguyen/3644

ATTORNEY DOCKET #: 023-100

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CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claim objections to claims 2, 9, and 19, are noted and have been amended as requested.

Claim objections to claims 5, 6, 15 – 17, and 19, are noted and have been amended as requested.

Claim objections to claims 1 and 8, are noted and have been amended as requested.

Claim objection to claim 20, is noted and have been amended as requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 112

Claim rejections to claims 5, 15, and 19, are noted and have been amended as requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102

Claim rejections to claims 1-5, 7-16, 18 and 20, as being anticipated by Shaffer et al. (US 5,570,532), have been noted and said claims have been rewritten.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103

Claim rejections to claims 6, 17, and 19, as being unpatentable over Schaffer et al. (US 5,570,532) in view of Miller (US 5,218,781), have been noted and said claims have been rewritten.

Claims 1 to 20, are deleted and new claims 21 to 30 are below:

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CLAIMS

I claim:

21. An apparatus for fishing, utilizing a fishing rod, reel, bail and line, comprising:
- (a) a plurality of support members, wherein said support members comprise an upper frame of said apparatus;
 - (b) a base, wherein said base comprises a lower frame of said apparatus and wherein at least one support member is attached to said base;
 - (c) a triggering mechanism, wherein said triggering mechanism comprises:
 - (i) a fishing line holder, wherein said fishing line holder quickly secures and releases said line from any reel, set to run free, or the bail set to the open position;
 - (ii) an internal sleeve;
 - (iii) two 90 ° Yokes;
 - (iv) a triggering arm;
 - (v) a counter weight;
 - (vi) a switch activator;
 - (vii) a trigger/stop bracket, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator have a near zero drag coefficient at their fixed points due to said internal sleeve; and
 - (viii) a proximity switch,wherein said internal sleeve is housed within and extends through said support member, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator are connected by said 90 ° yokes and are supported by said support member through said internal

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sleeve, wherein said fishing line holder and counter weight are connected at the distal end of said triggering arm, wherein said trigger/stop bracket is proximally connected to said support member, wherein said proximity switch is proximally connected to said support member, all as shown in Figs. 1 and 7, wherein said triggering arm and switch activator contemporaneously rotate when said line is pulled, causing said triggering arm and said switch activator to rotate until said triggering arm reaches top dead center of its rotation, wherein said counter weight accelerates said triggering arm into a free gravitational fall while said fishing line holder releases said line, wherein said trigger/stop bracket stops rotation of said triggering arm and said switch activator activates said proximity switch;

- (d) a rod holder, wherein said rod holder is attached to a support member; and
- (d) a signaling mechanism, wherein said signaling mechanism is attached to a support member,

wherein said upper frame connects to said lower frame and said rod holder comprises an opening to support said fishing rod, and wherein said line is threaded through said triggering mechanism, said triggering mechanism and said signaling mechanism are activated when said fishing line is pulled.

- 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said base, indicated by reference numeral 2 in FIG. 10, is "H" shaped.
- 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said signaling mechanism comprises:
 - i) a visual strike indicator, wherein said visual strike indicator is a high intensity strobe light, which is easily seen at least 300 feet away;
 - ii) an audible strike indicator, wherein said audible strike indicator is of the type that is easily heard over 150 feet away; and

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- iii) at least one power source to power said visual strike indicator and said audible strike indicator,
wherein said visual strike indicator and said audible strike indicator are attached to said support member.
- 24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said triggering mechanism, said rod holder and said signaling mechanism are housed in one support member, wherein said apparatus comprises a support member and said base, which may be separated for storage.
- 25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said support members, indicated by reference numerals 28, 50 and 49, are assembled as shown in FIG. 3.
- 26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said base comprises wind drag screws.
- 27. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said base comprises ballast.
- 26. An apparatus for fishing, utilizing a fishing rod, reel, bail and line, comprising:
 - (a) a plurality of support members, wherein said support members comprise an upper frame of said apparatus, and wherein said support members, indicated by reference numerals 28, 50 and 49, are assembled as shown in FIG. 3;
 - (b) a base, wherein said base, indicated by reference numeral 2 in FIG. 10 is "H" shaped, and comprises a lower frame of said apparatus, and wherein at least one support member is attached to said base;
 - (c) a triggering mechanism, wherein said triggering mechanism comprises:
 - (i) a fishing line holder, wherein said fishing line holder quickly secures and releases said line from any reel, set to run free, or the bail set to the open position;
 - (ii) an internal sleeve;

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- (iii) two 90 ° Yokes;
- (iv) a triggering arm;
- (v) a counter weight;
- (vi) a switch activator;
- (vii) a trigger/stop bracket, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator have a near zero drag coefficient at their fixed points due to said internal sleeve; and
- (viii) a proximity switch,

wherein said internal sleeve is housed within and extends through said support member, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator are connected by said 90 ° yokes and are supported by said support member through said internal sleeve, wherein said fishing line holder and counter weight are connected at the distal end of said triggering arm, wherein said trigger/stop bracket is proximally connected to said support member, wherein said proximity switch is proximally connected to said support member, all as shown in Figs. 1 and 7, wherein said triggering arm and switch activator contemporaneously rotate when said line is pulled, causing said triggering arm and said switch activator to rotate until said triggering arm reaches top dead center of its rotation, wherein said counter weight accelerates said triggering arm into a free gravitational fall while said fishing line holder releases said line, wherein said trigger/stop bracket stops rotation of said triggering arm and said switch activator activates said proximity switch;

- (d) a rod holder, wherein said rod holder is attached to a support member; and
- (e) a signaling mechanism, wherein said signaling mechanism is attached to a support member and wherein said signaling mechanism comprises:

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- i) a visual strike indicator, wherein said visual strike indicator is a high intensity strobe light, which is easily seen at least 300 feet away;
- iv) an audible strike indicator, wherein said audible strike indicator is of the type that is easily heard over 150 feet away; and
- v) at least one power source to power said visual strike indicator and said audible strike indicator,

wherein said visual strike indicator and said audible strike indicator are attached to a support member,

wherein said upper frame connects to said lower frame and said rod holder comprises an opening to support said fishing rod, and wherein said line is threaded through said triggering mechanism, said triggering mechanism and said signaling mechanism are activated when said fishing line is pulled, and wherein said triggering mechanism, said rod holder and said signaling mechanism are housed in one support member, wherein said apparatus comprises a support member and a base, which may be separated for storage.

- 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said triggering mechanism, said rod holder and said signaling mechanism are housed in one support member.
- 28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said base comprises wind drag screws.
- 29. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said base comprises ballast.
- 30. A method of ice fishing, utilizing a fishing rod, a bail, a line and a bait or equivalent thereof, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) connecting a base to at least one support member, wherein said base comprises a lower frame, said base is "H" shaped as shown in FIG. 10, indicated by reference

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- numeral 2, wherein at least one support member is attached to said base, said support member(s) comprising an upper frame;
- (b) setting said fishing pole in a rod holder, said rod holder being housed in one of said support members;
 - (c) threading said fishing line through a fishing line holder of a triggering mechanism, said triggering mechanism being mounted on one of said support members;
 - (d) setting said bail on said fishing rod to the open position;
 - (e) activating of said triggering mechanism, and subsequently said signaling mechanism when said a fish pulls on said line, wherein said triggering mechanism comprises:
 - a. a fishing line holder, wherein said fishing line holder quickly secures and releases said line from any reel, set to run free, or the bail set to the open position;
 - b. an internal sleeve;
 - c. two 90 ° Yokes;
 - d. a triggering arm;
 - e. a counter weight;
 - f. a switch activator;
 - g. a trigger/stop bracket, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator have a near zero drag coefficient at their fixed points due to said internal sleeve; and
 - h. a proximity switch,

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wherein said internal sleeve is housed within and extends through said support member, wherein said triggering arm and said switch activator are connected by said 90 ° yokes and are supported by said support member through said internal sleeve, wherein said fishing line holder and counter weight are connected at the distal end of said triggering arm, wherein said trigger/stop bracket is proximally connected to said support member, wherein said proximity switch is proximally connected to said support member, all as shown in Figs. 1 and 7, wherein said triggering arm and switch activator contemporaneously rotate when said line is pulled, causing said triggering arm and said switch activator to rotate until said triggering arm reaches top dead center of its rotation, wherein said counter weight accelerates said triggering arm into a free gravitational fall while said fishing line holder releases said line, wherein said trigger/stop bracket stops rotation of said triggering arm and said switch activator activates said proximity switch;

- (f) wherein said signaling mechanism will be seen over 300 feet away and heard over 150 feet away;
- (g) optionally repeating steps b through g; and
- (h) disconnecting said base and said support member and storing said base, said support member and said fishing rod.

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Applicant submits that claims 21 – 30 are allowable as amended and respectfully requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Marshall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Evelyn M. Marshall, Esquire

Agent # 46453